(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Threat to the lives of public men

1889. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that threat life of politicians, social workers and of people in various other vulnerable sections of the society from terrorists and other anti-social/anti-national outfits has increased over the years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many such potential targets of terrorists assaults are left to defend themselves; and

(c) whether the restriction imposed on the licencees regarding possession of guns of prohibitive bore is justified against the increasing use of sophisticated weapons by terrorists and anti-national forces?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is not correct that potential targets of terrorists assaults are left to defend themselves. In terrorists affected areas some of the vulnerable targets have been provided with Armed Guards. The persons concerned themselves have also been granted licences for weapons. Licences for non prohibited bore weapons are given by the local administration/state government. Licence for semi automatic and prohibited bore weapons are issued to persons who face grave and imminent threat to their lives from terrorists after detailed verification, whenever such requests are recommended by the concerned state governments/UT Admns.

Licence for Fire-Arms

1890. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the authority to issue licence for fire-arms used to vest with District Administrations, States and also with the Central Government, whereas presently it stands centralised solely with the Central Government;

(b) if so, what are the present rules and procedures for obtaining necessary licence from the Central Government; and

(c) whether the said policy is being reviewed presently for change/amendment?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) to (c) The policy has been reviewed and it has been decided *inter-alia* to do away with the requirement of obtaining prior clearance of the Government of India for issue/renewal of All-India licences in respect of certain categories of fire-arms.

Newscasts of the Celebrations of Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji by Doordarshan

1891. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that glimpses of the celebrations of birth anniversary of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji at Takht Harimandirji Patna Sahib the birth place of the revered tenth Guru of Sikhism, used to be shown by Doordarshan in its national programms of newscasts in the previous years;

(b) whether the said celebrations held on 3rd January, 1990, were not shown in any of the newscasts of that day; and